

JAPANESE STORY TALES SERIES

日本昔噺
勝々山

第五号

Sticking
Plasters
for
Sale



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日本昔噺第五号

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KACHI-KACHI MOUNTAIN.



ONCE upon a time there
was an old farmer who
cultivated a field in the mountains.
One day his old wife came and



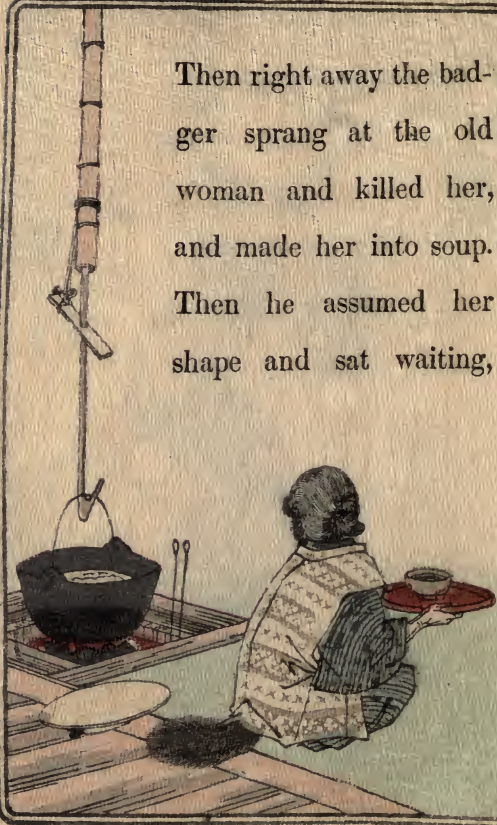
brought him his dinner; but a badger stole and eat it. This made the old man angry and at last he took the badger alive, carried it home with him, and hung it to a rafter by the feet. Then he said to his wife, "Let us have this badger for soup. Have it well cooked and wait till I come back." Then he went again to the field. His wife was pounding barley in a mortar and singing.

In distress the badger said,
“If you will only spare my
life I will pound the barley for
you.” As it was indeed in a
sad plight she untied the cord
and let it down.





Then right away the badger sprang at the old woman and killed her, and made her into soup. Then he assumed her shape and sat waiting,



when the old man returned from the field. When he was about to partake of the soup, the badger assumed his original form, and cried out, "You wife-eating



old man you! Did not you see
the bones under the floor?"
Laughing derisively it escaped
out of doors and disappeared.
The old man threw down his
chop-sticks and cried



long and bitterly.

Now in the
same mountain there
lived an old rabbit.



Hearing the voice of the old man crying, he came and tried to comfort him, and said he would himself avenge the death of the old woman. "First," he said, "parch me some beans." And the old man parched them. The rabbit put the parched beans in a pouch and said, "Now to

the mountain again ;” and away he went. The badger was attracted by the smell, and came and said ; “ Give me about a handful of those beans.” This was what the rabbit was expecting. So he said ; “ I will if you will carry a bundle of dry-grass for me over to yon mountain.” “ I will do as you say without fail,” replied the badger, “ only first give me the beans.” He begged importunately, but the rabbit said ;

“Yes, after you have carried the load of dry-grass.” He then put on his back a great pile of dried-grass and sent the badger on before, while he took out his flint



and struck out a spark, and set the bundle on fire. The badger alarmed at the noise asked, "what is that?" The rabbit replied; "That is *Kachi-Kachi* Mountain." Soon the fire began to kindle and spread in



the dried-
grass. The bad-ger,
hearing
this



again asked, "what is that?"

The rabbit replied, "That is *Bo-Bo* Mountain."[†] By this time the fire had spread to the badger's back and burnt it badly. Crying out in pain, he rolled over and shook off his load and ran away out of sight.

The rabbit next mixed some sauce and red-pepper and made a sticking plaster, put on a hat and set out to sell it as a cure for blisters and burns. The badger was then lying helpless with his

[†] Crackle Mountain, or Mountain of Defeat.

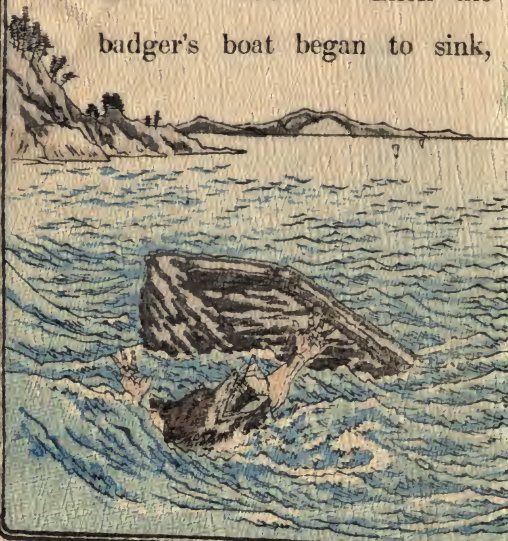


back all raw and sore. That must be a good medicine, he thought, when he heard of it. So he got some applied to his back. But there is no language to tell how he smarted when the red-pepper sticking plaster was applied to his sore skin. He just rolled over and over and howled long and bitterly. Now after about twenty days the badger's sore was healed. The rabbit was then making a boat, and the badger seeing it asked

“what are you going to do with this boat?” The rabbit replied, “I intend to catch fish,” thus deceiving. The badger felt envious, but was dull in that kind of work.

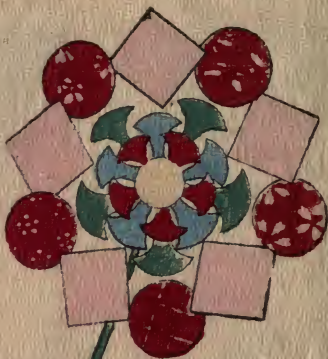


“I too will make a boat of clay,”
he said. So having made a clay
boat he rowed out to sea along
with the rabbit. Then the
badger's boat began to sink,



and when it was sinking, the
rabbit brandished aloft his oar
and struck the badger dead,
thus avenging the
old man's
wife.





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